

# N O T I C E

OF A

REMARKABLE BRONZE ORNAMENT WITH HORNS.

FOUND IN GALLOWAY, NOW AT ABBOTSFORD;

ALSO OF A

BRONZE ORNAMENT LIKE A "SWINE'S HEAD,"

FOUND IN BANFFSHIRE.

BY

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N O T I C E  
OF  
GOLD, SILVER, AND BRONZE ORNAMENTS.

The beautiful bronze relic, of which I exhibit several photographs,—taken for me by the kind permission of Mr J. Hope Scott, by my friend Mr John Smith, Darnick, an accomplished amateur photographer,—has been for a considerable time in the collection of antiquities at Abbotsford. It is fixed on a wooden stand, which bears the following engraved inscription :—“*Found in the earth at Torrs, parish of Kelton, Galloway.*” The bronze was presented to Sir Walter Scott by Mr Joseph Train, of the Excise, who was once resident at Castle-Douglas, in the same parish, and close to the place where it was found. Turning to John Nicholson’s “History of Galloway,” published in 1841, I find in the appendix to vol. ii. a communication by Mr Train, on various antiquities found in Galloway, in which he gives the following account of this bronze :—“About the year 1820, a mummer’s head mask was found in a morass, on the farm of Torrs, in the parish of Kelton. This ancient *disguisement* is made of fine copper, richly ornamented; it is constructed so as to cover the face of the wearer, having two long horns turning backwards, like those of a goat. Mumming and masquerades were common in the mansions of the nobility in the middle ages. Sebastian Brant, in his ‘Ship of Fools,’ p. 161, alluding to this custom, says—”

“ ‘The one hath a visor ugly set on his face,  
Another has on a vile counterfeit vesture;  
One painteth his visage with fume in such a case,  
That what he is himself he is scantily sure!’ ”

"It may consequently be inferred that this mask once belonged to a mummer of the neighbouring castle of Threave, and that it is as old as the buistie," or antique bedstead, which he had "just described" as belonging to the Douglasses, lords of Galloway, at the destruction of the castle about the middle of the fifteenth century. Mr Train continues—"After placing it on a pedestal, with an inscription on brass showing where it was found, I forwarded it to Abbotsford, where it has since been a conspicuous object in the museum."

In the "New Statistical Account of Scotland" (1845) there is a description of the parish of Kelton, Kirkcudbrightshire, by the Rev. Samuel Cowan; he states that "on the farm of Torrs there is an imperfect circle of upright stones, the remains of a Druidical temple, in the neighbourhood of which there is a copious spring of excellent water." He also gives, in addition, a summary of Mr Train's account of the discovery of this bronze "mummer's mask," found on this same farm of Torrs, which is situated at the north-east boundary of the parish. Various antiquities, of different ages, have been found in the parish. Numerous hill forts occur on different hill tops. A sepulchral tumulus opened near Gelston (towards the south of the parish), contained a stone coffin 7 feet in length, in which was found human bones, a brass or copper helmet, with several implements of war, that were greatly corroded. A bronze tripod (jug or ewer) was turned up by the plough at the farm of Mid-Kelton. "Near Glenlochar Bridge," says Mr Train, in his catalogue of the antiquities, "was turned up by the ploughshare, several years since, the head of a war horse in bronze, evidently of Roman manufacture. This exquisite remnant of remote antiquity is in the possession of Colonel Gordon of Culvennan." I need not remind the Society that it was formerly the fashion to consider all the more highly finished relics of antiquity as evidently Roman. And lastly, the loch of Carlingwarth, with its islands and crannogs, has fur-

nished many relics of antiquity in bronze and iron, some of which have recently been presented to our Museum. It is to be regretted that some of these earlier antiquities, such as the bronze armour found in the stone coffin, &c., and the bronze head of the war horse, had no correct and careful descriptions of them recorded.

I have made this digression to show how comparatively rich this district is in antiquities, and shall now return to the more particular description of the bronze before us. (See Plate XLIV.)

This relic consists of a convex plate of thin bronze, cut square across below, and running upwards to a somewhat pointed extremity above, which is now unfortunately imperfect. A little below the middle of each side there is a circular opening, or eye-hole, and between and above these openings are two projecting and gently tapering horns, which rise gradually upwards and outwards, and then bend backwards and downwards, in graceful curves, each terminating in a rounded or double-lobed extremity, somewhat resembling the elongated head of an animal or bird.

The metal of which it is formed is a fine brown bronze, and it is ornamented in relief with a rich embossed pattern of flowing curvilinear scrollwork, in some places forming mere projecting lines, and in others expanding into broad rounded lobes in considerable relief, which terminate in curled and rounded, or button-like extremities, the whole executed with the greatest skill and beauty; the pattern divides in the central line of the bronze, and is repeated in corresponding patterns over its different sides. The style of the ornament resembles much the embossed designs, and the trumpet-like scrolls of certain supposed Celtic ornaments, of which various remarkable examples are preserved in the Museum of the Society.

Small separate portions of bronze, with raised patterns, each complete in itself, are placed on different parts of its surface, one on the left side of its anterior extremity, and two others on the middle of the

inner margin of each of the eye-holes, between them and the base of the horns; these plates differ in shape and pattern from each other, and thus give an additional richness to the ornamentation. (See Plates XLIV. and XLV. figs. 1 and 3.)

A continuous series of corresponding curvilinear lines and scrolls, of finer character, the patterns being less prominent, and formed rather by their outlines being depressed or indented in the metal, are carried along the outer side of each of the projecting horns, the inner sides of the horns being formed of another plate of metal, apparently without any ornament; and the horns terminate in a separate rounded or double-lobed extremity, somewhat resembling the elongated head of an animal, —reminding us of some of those rather grotesque animal forms to be found on the sculptured stones of Scotland.

The bronze measures  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches in total length, the top, however, being imperfect. It measures  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches from the top, to the upper border of the eye-hole, which is 2 inches across, and from the lower part of this eye-hole to the lower edge of the bronze, 3 inches. The distance between the eye-holes, outside, round the projecting front part, is 6 inches; and a straight line drawn across the inside, from the front of one eye-hole to the other, measures only 4 inches. It measures  $3\frac{2}{3}$  inches in breadth across its lower straight margin, and about  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches on the round outside; and expands upwards to its greatest breadth of 6 inches in a straight line across the back, a little above the eye-holes and horns, and 11 inches on the round outside, immediately above the horns; from which part it contracts or tapers gradually upwards and backwards, and terminates in a somewhat pointed extremity above.

The horns are placed together, side by side, between and slightly above the middle of the eyes, and at a distance of  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches from the edge of the bronze. One is unfortunately imperfect, the ornamental tip, which is formed in each of a separate piece of metal, being wanting. The



perfect horn measures along its curves, in total length, including the tip,  $16\frac{1}{2}$  inches—the ornamental tip being  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch in length; the imperfect horn is 14 inches long. Each horn measures  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inches in diameter at the base, and tapers upwards to an extremity a quarter of an inch in diameter. They measure each about  $8\frac{3}{4}$  inches to the top of the curve, and 5 inches across the curve at the upper part; and the horns together measure 3 inches across their base, and separate above to a width of  $13\frac{1}{4}$  inches, measured across both horns. (See Plates XLIV. and XLV.)

A narrow band, or border of bronze, ornamented with short transverse lines on its inner margin, has been riveted all round the edge of the bronze, only some portions of which remain; and at the lower angles of the bronze, on the inside, at each extremity of the straight lower border, there are two small bronze pins, one on the lower border, the other on the lateral border or margin, and about  $\frac{2}{3}$ ths of an inch apart, which project inwards on each side, and suggest the probability of their having been used for attaching something to the lower part of the bronze—at least they seem to be quite distinct from the small nails by which the border is fastened to the edge of the bronze. (See Plate XLV. fig. 4.)

The style of the ornament of this bronze is of peculiar interest, and is well shown in the accompanying plates, which render more detailed description unnecessary. Its prevailing character consists of these beautiful and graceful scrolls; some of the smaller ornamental details on the perfect horn suggest, however, a resemblance to the mæander or Greek fret, which belongs probably to a later date than the general style of the other ornaments.

The bronze seems undoubtedly to belong to the beautiful class of relics which Mr Franks has grouped together in the “*Horæ Ferales*”<sup>1</sup> as con-

<sup>1</sup> “*Horæ Ferales, or Studies in the Archaeology of the Northern Nations.*” By the late John M. Kemble, M.A., &c. Edited by R. G. Latham, M.D., and A. W. Franks, M.A., &c. 4to. London, 1863.

stituting a peculiar phase of art, of which a very large proportion of the examples have been found in the British Islands; and if we take into consideration the apparent resemblance of the extremities of the horns to the elongated head of a bird or animal, and the presenee, although in a very small degree, of something at least resembling the mæander as an ornament, then we would be inclined to place the date of this bronze at about the latter part of the "late Celtic" period of Mr Franks, or even still later, and probably near the close of this style of beautiful Celtic Art.

Mr Franks says,—“In this peculiar class of antiquities the British Islands stand unrivalled. A few ancient objects, analogous in design, may be found in various parts of the Continent, and more extended researches in local museums may bring many others to light; but the foreign contributions to this section are scanty when compared with those of our own country. The antiquities under consideration consist of shields, swords, and daggers, horse furniture, personal ornaments, and a number of miscellaneous objects, some of iron, some of bronze, and frequently decorated with enamel. All these antiquities exhibit skill of decoration, remarkable for its peculiar and varied forms, and testify to extraordinary skill in working metals.” (“*Horæ Ferales*, p. 172.)

These relics Mr Franks has shown to be the work of the Celtic race, and belong in all probability to the later Celtic period of our history. He does not, “however, wish to claim any very remote antiquity for such remains—at any rate so far as Britain is concerned. They are probably not more ancient than the introduction of coinage into Britain, from 200 to 100 years before Christ, and not much later than the close of the first century after Christ, when the Roman dominion in this country was firmly established. This date would account for the occasional discovery of such remains with, or in close proximity to, Roman antiquities, and also for the influence that their designs seem to have exercised over certain phases of Roman colonial art, in which.



however, their wild and studied irregularity of design are brought into subjection, though, at the same time, the patterns lose much of their charm and originality."

"At any rate, whatever may be the date of these remains, they are well worthy of the study of archaeologists; and further discoveries and researches may throw more light on the difficult questions of their origin and date. This can only be satisfactorily done by bringing together, as far as possible, the scattered elements for our study, dispersed through various public and private collections." ("Horæ Ferales," p. 189.)

I have much pleasure in bringing before the Society this peculiar bronze relic, which would appear to be almost unique in character, at least I have not been able to discover a record of any similar piece of ornamental metal work. It is an important addition to those already known; and it is interesting to note that its well-authenticated history tends to show the correctness of Mr Franks' conclusions, as it was found in a district of Scotland where the Celtic element was largely developed among its inhabitants.

I have said nothing as to the supposed use of this curious bronze relic. Undoubtedly I consider it belongs to times far anterior to those suggested by Mr Train, — those, namely, of the late Celtic period pointed out by Mr Franks. The size of the bronze, being sufficient to cover the human face, probably suggested the idea of its being a mummer's mask, although in other respects it does not seem to be very well adapted for such a purpose. When it is held on the face, like the visor of a helmet, it is possible to see through the two round openings or eye-holes. If it has been used as armour, or perhaps from its being formed of such thin plates as a decoration, for the human head, it is not very easy to see how it could have been worn, the projecting part between the eyes being apparently so unnecessarily prominent, although, no doubt, the projection might add to its use as a

defence to the face. It is also difficult to see the reason why the eye-holes are placed so far apart from one another.

Another possible application of the bronze is, that it might have been used as a champfrein or frontal, a plate of metal to ornament or protect the forehead of a small horse or lady's palfrey. It differs, however, from any descriptions which I have seen of these pieces of defensive armour during the Middle Ages, by its greater roundness and projection between the eyes; the frontals being generally almost flat pieces of ornamental iron-work, which resemble in shape the flat forehead of the horse. The central part of the forehead of the frontal is, however, frequently ornamented with some design, or defended by a spike or horn. Grose, in his "Military Antiquities," mentions that the champfrein was made of iron, copper, or brass, and sometimes of jacked leather; and in the French historians we read of the nobility using them made not only of gold, but also ornamented with precious stones. "Chanfrons reaching only to the middle of the face are called *demi-chanfrons*." The small size of this bronze mask may be brought forward as an objection to its having been used even as a demi-champfrein; we must remember, however, that the horses of Galloway, where this was found, were of a small size, so perhaps it may not be altogether unlikely that it was used as an ornament of this kind.

Skelton, in his "Illustrations of Ancient Armour," tells us that "frontals, or protection for the horses' heads, had been used by the Persians and Greeks of ancient time, but their earliest application in Europe seems to be the commencement of the fifteenth century. "During the fifteenth century the chain mail was by degrees superseded by plate armour, the chanfrein being the part first adopted."

Should this curious bronze be believed to have been allied to the mediæval champfrein, then, in classing it along with those relics set aside as so peculiar and ancient by Mr Franks—and on this point it seems

to me there is no room for doubt—we find, that the use of a frontal must have been of much greater antiquity even in our own country than has ever been believed by any of our authorities on the armour or ornaments of past ages.

When, however, we consider the comparatively small size, and the delicately beautiful ornamental details of this bronze, it seems on the whole more probable that it was intended to be used as part of some ornamental head-dress of a man, rather than of a horse. The heads of various animals, we know, have been used as decorations for head-pieces, or helmets; the bull and cow were sacred animals of some of our early races of men; and should we suppose this horned bronze was intended to bear any resemblance to the head of these animals, or to that of a goat, it might probably have formed a part of a highly ornamented head-dress or helmet. The small nails which project from each of its lower angles show it was not complete, but had been attached to something else, perhaps also to a leathern lining. The horns of cows as well as goats appear to have been worn by some of the Greeks, and helmets bearing horns have been used by various nations of antiquity. In Hope's "*Costume of the Ancients*," vol. i. pl. 21, and pl. 130, there is a figure of a Greek helmet with a long horn projecting from each side of the headpiece, and another of an Amazon wearing a horned helmet. Meyrick in his "*Ancient Armour*," vol. i. pl. xv., also figures these horned helmets, and states that "the Thracians had a helmet of brass, having ears and horns like an ox, of the same metal." "These helmets were worn also by the Phrygians, though but rarely; they were, however, adopted by the Greeks, and, according to Diodorus Siculus, by the Belgic Gauls." We have here, therefore, a reference to a Celtic people wearing a variety of horned head-piece or helmet.

The other BRONZE RELIC, or BOAR'S HEAD, which I have to describe, was exhibited to the Society some years ago, but comparatively little

attention was paid to it at the time. As it apparently belonged to the same class of relics as the Abbotsford bronze, I thought it best to bring it more fully under the notice of the members. It is also a very remarkable bronze, and belongs to the same class of late Celtic antiquities, although perhaps of an earlier character than the one just described. This bronze is now preserved in the Banff Institution, and I copy the details of its discovery from the "New Statistical Account of Scotland" (1845). The Rev. George Innes, in his account of the parish of Deskford, Banffshire, dated August 1836, writes as follows:—

"There was found, about twenty years ago, on the confines of a farm called Liechestown, the resemblance of a swine's head in brass, of the ordinary size, with a wooden tongue, movable by springs. It had also eyes, and the resemblance in every respect was wonderfully exact. It was found at a depth of about 6 feet, in a mossy and knolly piece of ground upon a bed of clay. The ground abounded with hazel nuts, which looked entire, but upon being opened were found empty. This antique curiosity is now in the possession of the Banff Institution, to which it was presented by the Honourable Colonel Grant, to whom it was given by the tenant who found it on his farm."

This singularly shaped piece of bronze work, when laid on its side for facility of description, may be compared to a boar's head. It measures in greatest length  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches, by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches in greatest breadth immediately behind the orbits. There is a circular opening, eye-hole or orbit on each side, measuring  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter; these open orbits are  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches distant from each other over the rounded front of the head (or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches apart in a straight line), and they are  $10\frac{3}{4}$  inches separate, measuring round the lower or back part of the head. From the back part of the bronze to the posterior edge of the circular opening or orbit, it measures nearly  $1\frac{5}{8}$  inch, the eye-hole  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch across, and from the front of the eye-hole to the extremity of the snout, about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches. (See Plate XLVI. fig. 1.)

The head may be described as formed of several plates of bronze. First a plate of embossed bronze, bent into a circular form, and measuring 17 inches in circumference, behind the projecting ornaments surrounding the circular openings or eyes; this band of bronze is straight posteriorly, and has its edge turned outwards all round into a small lip.



which measures rather more than a quarter of an inch in depth. Its front edge is cut into two rounded projections, which spring from the central part between the eyes, and behind these projections the rest of the band is straight, completing the circle of the head. The whole front part of this band is ornamented by curved trumpet-like ornaments, in high relief. Two are laid side by side, and encircle the back or under part of the head; at each extremity of these ornaments two pairs of shorter trumpet-like ornaments are expanded in front, enclosing each of the circular openings or orbits, and between them and the eye-holes there is also an angular-edged ellipse-like projection surrounding the orbits on each side. All these curved ornaments are convex externally, and hollow internally, being probably cast, or hammered from within outwards, from the solid plate of the metal. The greatest breadth of this band, across the openings or eyes in the long diameter of the head, measures nearly  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches; the narrower back part measuring  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches across.

To the rounded projections of this plate, in front, corresponding to the face of the animal, is riveted another bronze plate, which is smooth or unornamented, and tapers gradually forward to form its anterior extremity, which is turned outwards and upwards, thus resembling the snout of a boar. This second plate measures about 4 inches in length, from the edge of the rounded projection of the first plate, at the middle of the orbits, and tapers from about  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches on the round, or  $4\frac{1}{4}$  in a straight line across, at the back part; to about 4 inches on the round, or  $2\frac{3}{4}$  across, at the point of the snout; as far as we can judge from its imperfect state.

The straight part of the first plate in front, at the under or lower portion of the head, corresponding to the base of the lower jaw of the pig, has a small rounded plate of bronze, riveted along its edge, which projects about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch in the middle, and forms a support to the lower jaw. It is pierced by a round hole towards each extremity, and in one of these a bronze nail or button still remains, with a loop of wire passed through its outer extremity, apparently for the attachment of the movable lower jaw.

The bronze plate forming the lower jaw is convex and somewhat triangular in shape. Its base consists of a rounded transverse lobe, pierced at each extremity with circular openings, for the large nails which project from the corresponding plate attached to the bronze head; the rest of

the lower jaw is formed of three parallel and projecting lobes, which spring from this transverse lobe, taper as they run forwards, and terminate at the point of the jaw. It has riveted on it, at each side of its base, two triangular tapering rods of bronze with hooked extremities, about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length, which, when the jaw is in position, lie backwards into the cavity of the head, and thus form a sort of balance-weight to the lower jaw itself. The whole plate measures about  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length, its point being imperfect, by about 6 inches in breadth on the round, across the base. (Plate XLVI. fig. 2.) There is another somewhat triangular, and concave plate of bronze, about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, by about the same in greatest breadth, ribbed transversely across towards its pointed extremity, which would appear to have formed the palate of the upper jaw. It has riveted to its base some other portions of small plates. One of these bends downwards for  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch on one side, and is pierced with a round hole, a corresponding, but now separate portion of plate, also pierced with a nail or rivet hole, fits the opposite side of the base of the palate; and between them they appear to have formed a rounded throat-like opening. These plates have apparently been fixed by these openings or rivet-holes, to the back part of the throat, at the root of the lower jaw. It was thought the large plate, just described, might have been the tongue of the head, but it seems more likely to have been intended to represent the palate, if we can trust the correctness of the notice in the "Statistical Account," as we are told there that it had a movable wooden tongue; and, as it is also stated that it "had eyes;" it is possible that the eye-holes may have been at one time filled with enamelled plates. (Plate XLVI. figs. 3 and 4.)

A rounded shallow disk, or dish of bronze,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, and about half an inch in depth, with a projecting rim about a quarter of an inch in breadth, was found along with the head, and has since been attached by wire to the neck or base of the head, which, however, it does not exactly fit, being a little larger in its circumference; it should not therefore have been so attached to the head. (Plate XLVI. fig. 1.)

This extraordinary bronze, from the more simple character of the curvilinear scrolls or "trumpet-like" ornaments, the style of its decoration, and the want of any smaller ornamental details, belongs probably to a considerably earlier portion of the "late Celtic" period than the



Abbotsford bronze already described. It is difficult to suggest any explanation of its supposed use. It seems, however, undoubtedly to represent a boar's head.

Mr Charles Roach Smith, in a memoir on some "Anglo-Saxon and Frankish Remains," in the second volume of his valuable "Collectanea Antiqua" (London, 1852), when referring to the figure of a hog upon a Saxon helmet found near Monyash in Derbyshire,<sup>1</sup> quotes various passages from the poem of Beowulf, which show that the helmet was probably ornamented by a figure of a boar or swine. I give two short extracts, pp. 240, 241 :—

|                     |                                      |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| eofep-líc fciónon   | They seemed a boars form             |
| eofep-hleop bepan ; | to bear over their cheeks ;          |
| Ʒe-hƿoden Ʒolde     | twisted with gold                    |
| fáh and fýp-heapð,  | variegated and hardened in the fire, |
| fep-h-peapðe heólð. | this kept the guard of life.         |

l. 604.

|                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ðec ðá in bepan        | Then commanded he to bring in      |
| eaƿop heäƿoð-ƿeƷn,     | the boar, an ornament to the head, |
| heaðo-ƿeäpne helm,     | the helmet lofty in war,           |
| [ƿe] aƿe-byƿnan,       | the grey mail coat,                |
| Ʒuð-ƿpeopð Ʒeäto-líc ; | the ready battle-sword.            |

l. 4299.

He also gives the following quotation from Tacitus, "*De Moribus Germanorum*" (cap. lxx.), to prove that the "Germanic tribes," as Tacitus designates them, "on the right shore of the Baltic bore, as a charm against the dangers of war, images of wild boars."—"Matrem deum venerantur : insigne superstitionis, formas aprorum gestant. Id pro armis omniq[ue] tutelâ: securum deo cultorem etiam inter hostes præstat."

The boar was sacred to Freya, and the bearing, or wearing, a figure of the animal, was considered to propitiate the goddess, and place the wearer under her special protection. The same fact is referred to in another passage of the poem of Beowulf, also quoted by Mr C. Roach Smith ; and Mr Bateman<sup>1</sup> mentions that the custom of wearing the

<sup>1</sup> See "Ten Years' Digging in Celtic and Saxon Grave Hills." By Thomas Bateman, &c. London, 1861. Pp. 28-33.

figure of a boar in honour of Freya, is alluded to in the Edda, and also in the Sagas.

Mr C. R. Smith, in the memoir referred to above, states that "Helmets or casques are of very rare occurrence in Saxon graves, and apparently still more so in Frankish, as I have not met with a single representation in any of the works consulted." He then describes the bronze framework of one resembling a conical cap, found near Cheltenham, and another already referred to, found in Derbyshire, recorded by Mr Bateman, which was formed of iron ribs radiating from the crown, and was believed to have been coated with plates of horn: it had the figure of a boar, of iron and bronze, on the top. While Mr Franks, in the "*Horæ Ferales*," in his chapter on bronze helmets, in which he notices both of these caps or head-pieces, says, "Few ancient helmets have been discovered in Northern Europe; none, it is believed, in the British Isles of an age anterior to the Roman invasion. A few rare specimens have been found in Germany, two of which are represented in the plate (xii. figs. 6 and 7)." These are bell-shaped or conical caps of bronze, terminating above in a button-like ornament on the apex. "A very peculiar object, presumed to be part of a helmet of the Bronze period, is preserved in the Copenhagen Museum (see '*Atlas des Antiquités des Nord*,' pl. v. fig. 1): it is covered with elegant spirals, and has had gold plates attached to it as ornaments." It is also figured (No. 202) in Worsaae's Catalogue of the Royal Museum of Copenhagen, where it is designated as the chin-piece of a bronze helmet; it has two long, bent, unornamented rods of metal, which spring from each side of it in front, and run upwards and backwards, as if for the purpose of attaching it to the head-piece.

Mr Franks, in the Catalogue of Antiquities of his "*Late Celtic Period*," describes a single helmet with a conical top, formed partly of bronze and iron, decorated with enamel and gold, and having ornaments in low relief. It was found in an ancient channel of the Seine, is now preserved in the Louvre, and is engraved in the "*Revue Archéologique*" nouv. serie. iii. pl. v. (*Horæ Ferales*, p. 174.)

One of the bronze helmets, figured in his plate xii., referred to above, was found at Vulci; it is believed by Mr Franks to be copied from a Greek helmet, and to be probably Etruscan; it displays on each of its sides a figure of a boar in outline.

Mr John M. Kemble has told us,<sup>1</sup> that swine among the Germans and the Anglo-Saxons were sacred animals. "Their armourers used to place the figure of a boar on their helmets as an amulet, and thus prevented the wearer from being wounded by any weapon." "On this account the helmet is often called, in Anglo-Saxon poems, only *swin*, or *eofar swine*, *i.e.* boar."

The boar, we know, was also used as a decoration of the "Late Celtic" period; one is displayed on the beautifully ornamented bronze shield found in the river Witham.<sup>2</sup> Mr Franks, who first called attention to this, says, "The boar, of which the outline occurs on this shield, is a well-recognised Celtic symbol. M. de la Saussaye, in a valuable communication to the '*Revue Numismatique*' for 1840, p. 91, has shown that this beast is to be found on the coins of every part of Gaul, as well as on the coins struck by the cognate races of Britain, Spain, Illyria, and Galatia. In English coins it is to be found both on gold, silver, and copper; even on the coins of Cunobelin it is to be seen, though there refined and modified according to Roman taste."<sup>3</sup>

This curious bronze, found in Banffshire, fashioned entirely after the similitude of a boar's head, is allied to the horned bronze before described, not only by the style of its material and embossed ornamentation, but also by its bearing a resemblance to the head of an animal; and in this instance, the very animal is imitated whose name, with some races, had become synonymous with that of a helmet. Both these bronzes, therefore, may possibly be considered as having been worn as peculiar, official, or at least very distinguishing and singular head gear; may, in fact, have been possibly portions of the very rare head-pieces or helmets of the "Late Celtic" times, and may perhaps have been also used in accordance with some early superstitious customs of the Celts.

Careful drawings of both of these bronzes were made for the Society by Mr Thomas Brown, artist, and the accompanying plates, copied from these, and the photographs already mentioned, give details of the ornaments, and their general style and character, much better than any description, however minute. (Plates XLIV., XLV., XLVI.)

<sup>1</sup> *Horæ Ferales*, p. 68.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* pl. xvi. p. 190.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* p. 185.

*Note.*—In bringing under the notice of the Society these wonderful relics of the “Late Celtic” period, I am inclined, for the sake of comparison with them, to add a few notes of some of the relics of a somewhat similar character and style of art, which are preserved in the Museum of the Society, and especially those which have been discovered in the same districts of Scotland.

The first of these relics to which I would refer, is the bronze armlet found in 1826, near Plunton Castle, in the parish of Borgue, and county of Kirkcudbright. It is ornamented with two plates of bronze, showing



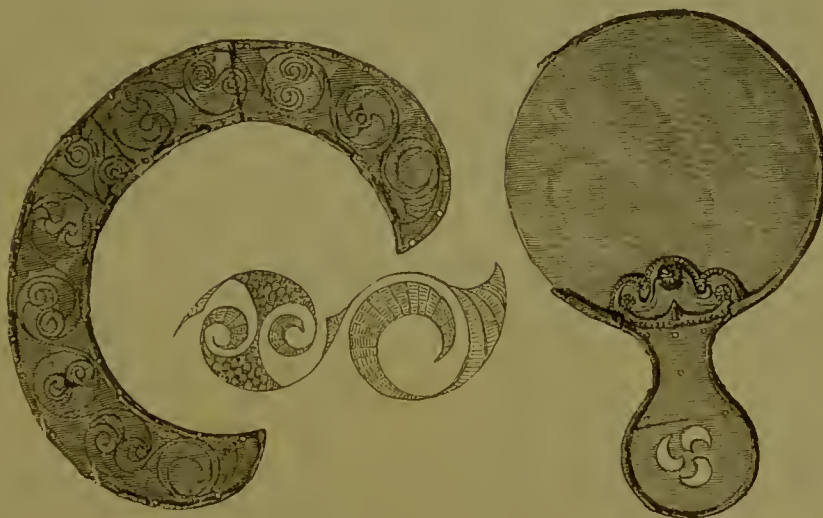
Bronze Armlet, found in the parish of Borgue, Kirkcudbright (1½ inch in breadth across).

the peculiar embossed and wavy patterns of corresponding character to those on the horned bronze found in the same county. (See *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.* vol. iii. p. 236).

In the same county of Kirkcudbright, and in the parish of Balmaclellan, a bog was being drained, and in one of the drains which were cut from 2½ to 3 feet deep, a variety of bronze remains were found: some of them folded up and wrapped together in pieces of coarse cloth.



These bronzes consist of a circular mirror (fig. 1 of the annexed woodcut), with a handle pierced with a group of three of the peculiar



2.

1.

Bronze Mirror, and Crescent-shaped Plate of Bronze, found at Balmaclellan, Kirkcudbright.



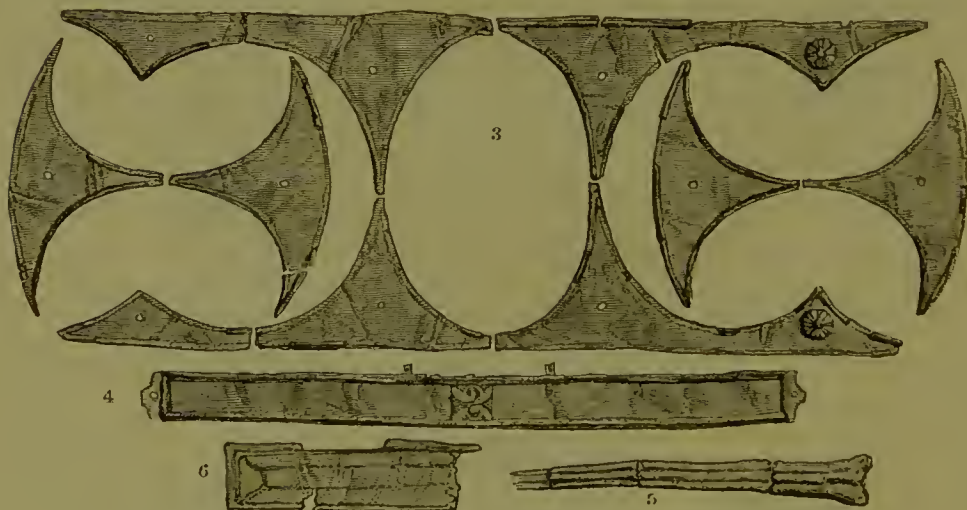
3.

1. Mirror, 8 inches in diameter, handle 5 inches in length. 2. Crescent, 13 inches in greatest diameter, and 2 inches in breadth. Part of the pattern of the crescent is drawn to a larger scale. 3. Embossed Plate of Bronze, from Mirror (full size).

C-like arrangement of curved lines, and each side of the mirror has placed on its surface, over the handle, an ornamental plate of bronze, displaying the embossed wavy patterns characteristic of this "Late Celtic" style of art; these plates are also decorated with three small circular patterns, somewhat like the head of a composite flower. (A careful drawing of one of the plates is given here, full size (fig. 3).

Also a crescent-shaped plate of bronze covered with a series of ornamental scrolls, as shown in the preceding woodcut (fig. 2). And several bronze plates with straight and curved edges, forming thus angularly-

(2 feet 2 inches in length.)



Plates and Belts of Bronze, found together at Balmaclellan, Kirkcudbrightshire.

Figs. 3-6.

shaped portions (see woodcut, fig. 3), which may possibly have been the ornamental decorations of a large oval-shaped wooden shield. Two flower-like studs or nails remain attached to these plates, and thus show a correspondence to the ornaments on the mirror. All these bronzes have attached to them a separate narrow border or edging of bronze, as occurs also in the horned bronze. The crescent may have been a gorget, or, perhaps, also formed part of the ornaments of a shield. Various belts of bronze (figs. 4 to 6) were also found, one of which,  $18\frac{1}{2}$  inches long (fig. 4).



has engraved on it, at the middle of its length, a scroll, or wavy trumpet-like pattern. (These plates and belts are placed together for convenience, in the preceding woodcut.) (Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot. vol. iv. p. 294.)

Leaving this county of Kirkcudbright, where these various remains have been found, and turning to those discovered in other parts of Scotland; we have in the Museum a beautiful collar of bronze, of a closely corresponding style of workmanship, which was found in 1747, near the



Bronze Collar, found near Stithell, Roxburghshire. (Greatest diameter  $7\frac{5}{8}$  inches, and nearly 2 inches broad across the front.)

village of Stithell, in the neighbouring county of Roxburghshire. It resembles considerably the armlet already referred to, having an embossed wavy pattern on each side of it in front; the other embossed patterns, however, which cover the rest of the collar, consist of a series of connected spiral scrolls, an ornamental decoration which is common on the bronzes of the north of Europe. (See Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot. vol. iii. p. 237.)

In the adjoining county of Peebles, on the side of the Shaw Hill at New Cairnmuir, parish of Kirkurd, there were discovered, in the year

1806, a variety of gold ornaments, consisting of three torques, two of them formed of spirally-twisted rods of gold, upwards of forty small rounded pellets of gold, showing an irregularly-formed cross-like ornament projecting in relief from the surface of each, and a large rounded ring-like ornament with a collar or neck. This last ornament is hollow, with an opening through the centre, and displays a beautiful variety of the same embossed, wavy and trumpet-like style of ornamentation over the whole of one side; the other being plain, with the exception of a small orna-



Gold Ornament found on the Shaw Hill, Peeblesshire. ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in greatest length, by 2 inches in breadth, and weighs 4 oz. 5 dwt.)

ment of the same character on the neck. It is (along with two of the pellets) among the treasures of our Museum. These relics are described and engraved in our "*Archæologia Scotica*," vol. iv. p. 217, pl. x. (1857). It was supposed at first to have been the head of a sceptre. Mr Franks, however, informs us ("*Horæ Ferales*," p. 194), that Mr Kemble believed it to have been the pommel of a sword. If so, from its size it might have belonged to a double-handed sword. (The preceding figure is taken from Dr Wilson's "*Prehistoric Annals of Scotland*.")

There is also the bronze scabbard, which was found still farther to the north, near the Pentland Hills, in the county of Edinburgh. It displays various curved ornamental patterns in relief, resembling the trumpet-like style of decoration. (*Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.* vol. iii. p. 238).

From the opposite shore of the Firth of Forth, in the county of Fife, we have a few fragments of the extraordinary group of silver remains found at Norrie's Law, near Largo. These include a small serpent-like or spiral silver ring  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch in diameter, various silver plates, a circular plate like a boss, and other portions possibly of the covering of a shield, some of which show an embossed pattern. A large silver pin, with a series of connected scroll patterns on the flattened surface of its ornamental top. And a leaf-shaped plate of silver, complete in itself, especially interesting, from displaying engraved on its surface no less than three of the very puzzling supposed 'symbols' or ornaments which occur on the "Sculptured Stones of Scotland;" the "spectacle ornament," its circular disks, however, are covered with the C-like loops and scrolls, and crossed by the Z or "double sceptre" ornament, while below this there is the figure believed to represent the head of a hound. I may remark, in passing, that the fact of these peculiar ornaments being thus carefully engraved together on this plate of silver, which has been probably worn on the person, seems a proof that these designs must have been something more than merely those of favourite brooches for ordinary wear: if they were brooches at all, they possibly may have been special and distinctive badges, either of rank, or honour, or of an official character. The meaning of these designs has been fully discussed in Dr John Stuart's volumes on the "Sculptured Stones of Scotland," vol. ii. preface, p. 26.



Leaf-shaped Plate of Silver,  
found at Norrie's Law, Largo,  
Fife ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length).

I refer to these relics here from the style of the scroll-work, and the

embossed circular ornament at the top of the plate, which also appears to bear a considerable resemblance to those embossed on the plates of the bronze mirror (*Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.* vi. p. 7, Plates I.-II.) Another of these silver plates is also of special interest, from its displaying three embossed scrolls, in high relief, associated with trumpet-like ornaments.

This plate is now imperfect, and it is difficult to say what may have been its use. The embossed ornaments on it, however, considerably



Silver plate, with embossed scrolls, found at Norrie's Law, Largo, Fife (5 inches in greatest diameter).

resemble in their character and workmanship the scrolls on the "swine's head" of bronze found in Banffshire. (See preceding woodcuts.)

Lastly, we have in the Museum, from the island of Westray, Orkney, the terminal part or tip probably of a scabbard of a dagger, which is formed of bronze and plated with silver. It is hollow, is ornamented with scrolls in relief, forming a rude representation of a human face, and is pierced at its upper part with a pin of bronze, for attaching it to the scabbard. (See the annexed woodcut.) It was found in a grave on the links near Pierowall, along with a knife and various iron instru-



ments, and fragments of wood and iron, supposed to be the remains of a shield (Proc. vol. ii. p. 158).

Two rings, or loop-like portions of hollow bronze, believed to be part of the trappings of a horse, were found in a cairn in Aberdeenshire, and are now in the Museum. They probably belong to the same late Celtic period (Proc. vol. v. p. 341).

Mr Franks also classes among his "Antiquities of the late Celtic period," various massive armlets, several of which are in the museum of the Society. They consist of a broad plate of bronze with three ornamented parallel belts or bars projecting from its surface, which terminates in rounded extremities in front, more or less separated from each



1. Scabbard Tip of bronze, plated with silver, found in the Island of Westray, Orkney ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch in length). 2. Rounded extremity of do.

other; there is a round opening towards each extremity of the armlet in front, which has apparently been filled up with a separate enamelled bronze plate, fastened with an iron pin. These armlets bear a general resemblance to the bronze relics I have been describing, but differ from them in being ornamented with oblique, transverse, and trumpet-like curved ornaments, in high relief,—of solid bronze. One of these bronze armlets, measuring  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches across in greatest breadth, was found, with a similar one, in the links of Drumside, parish of Belhelvie, Aberdeenshire, and is now in the Museum. A pair, displaying the round openings filled up with the ornamental enamelled plates, were found at Castle Newe, Strathdon, in the same county, and one of them is figured in Plate III. of vol. vi. of the "Proceedings" of the Society, along with another armlet of similar character, found at Mountblairry, in the county of Banff. This last armlet is the largest in the Museum, measuring  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches in greatest breadth, and weighs  $3\frac{3}{4}$  lbs.

Two other armlets of the same type, but less massive in character, are

also preserved in the Museum, they are each about  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches in greatest breadth, and their ornamental details are much less prominent.

Two armlets of another pattern, being formed of a spirally twisted and snake-like band of bronze, are also in the collection, and display different rich patterns in relief; one of these was found, in 1732, at Pitalpin, near Dundee.

I shall merely allude—to the pair of curious, flat, large-mouthed bronze spoons, in the Museum, which were found in (Denbighshire) Wales in 1861. They have their short handles decorated with an embossed circular ornament, like the head of a flower, and are believed to belong to the same “Late Celtic” period (See Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot. vol. v. p. 110); various examples of these peculiar spoon-like bronzes have been found in England and in Ireland, but, as yet, none have been discovered in Scotland. Also to the two beautiful circular bronze shields, covered with a series of embossed concentric circles, alternating with rows of small round knobs, which were found, in 1837, while digging a drain in a marshy field near Yetholm, Roxburghshire (Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot. vol. v. p. 165, Plate IV.)

My object being simply to group together those relics, which, in the character of their decoration or workmanship, seemed to bear the nearest relation to the singular bronzes found in Kirkcudbright and Banffshire, and may therefore be considered as probably belonging to the same period of “Late Celtic Art.”

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATES.

##### *Plate XLIV.*

Bronze with horns, found at Torrs, Kirkcudbrightshire; showing its ornamental details, and the small separate plates of bronze, placed between the horn and the eye, and at the left side of the bronzo in front. ( $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches in greatest length.)

##### *Plate XLV.*

Fig. 1. Perfect horn of right side of bronze found at Torrs; showing the series of ornamental scrolls on this its outer surface, and its ornamental termination. Also the small separate ornamental plate of bronze, placed between its base, and the eyehole of the right side of the bronze.

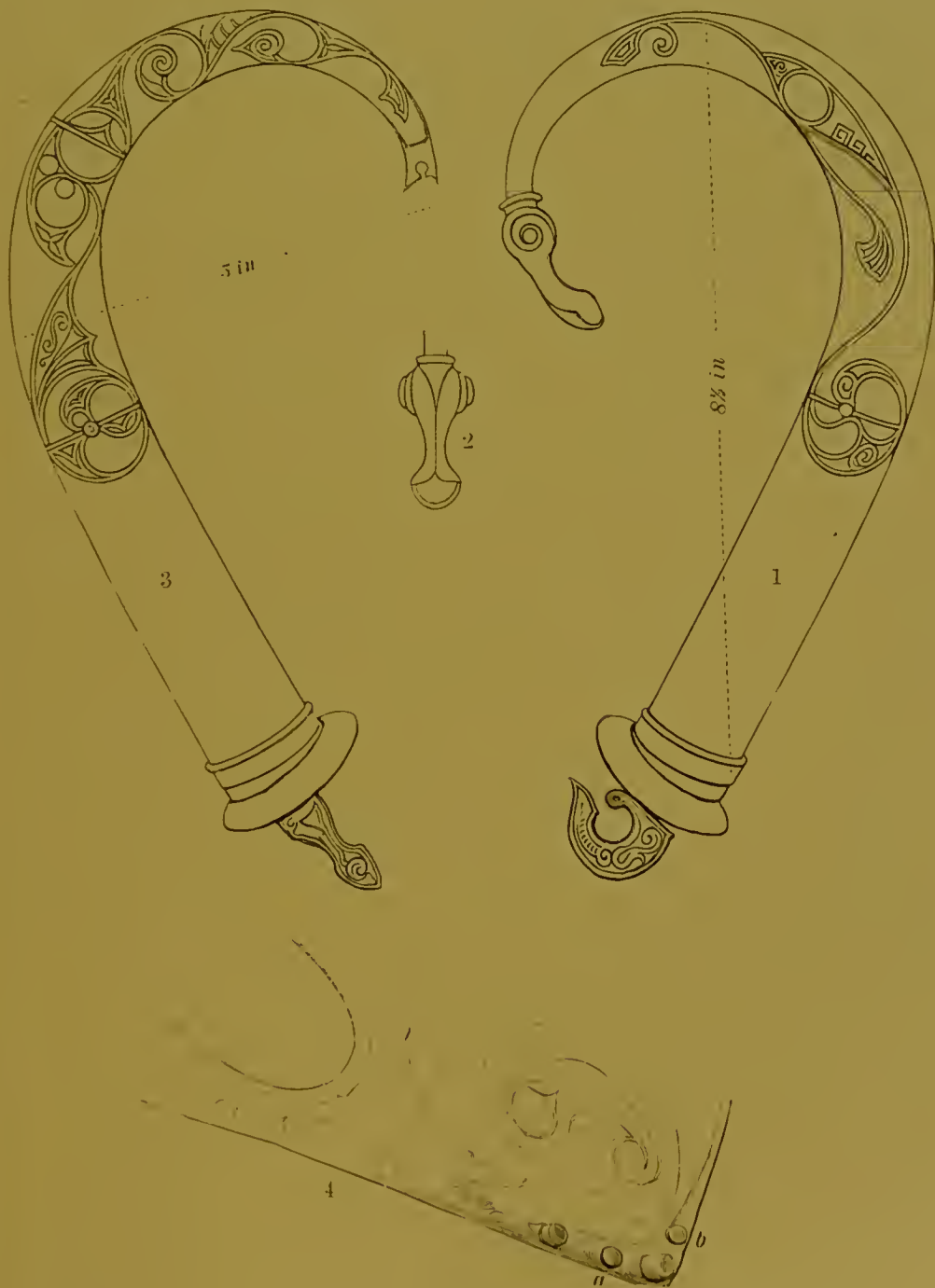
Fig. 2. Front view of ornamental extremity of right horn.





BRONZE WITH HORNS, FOUND AT TORRS, KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE (NOW AT ABBOTSFORD).  
(10½ inches in greatest length).

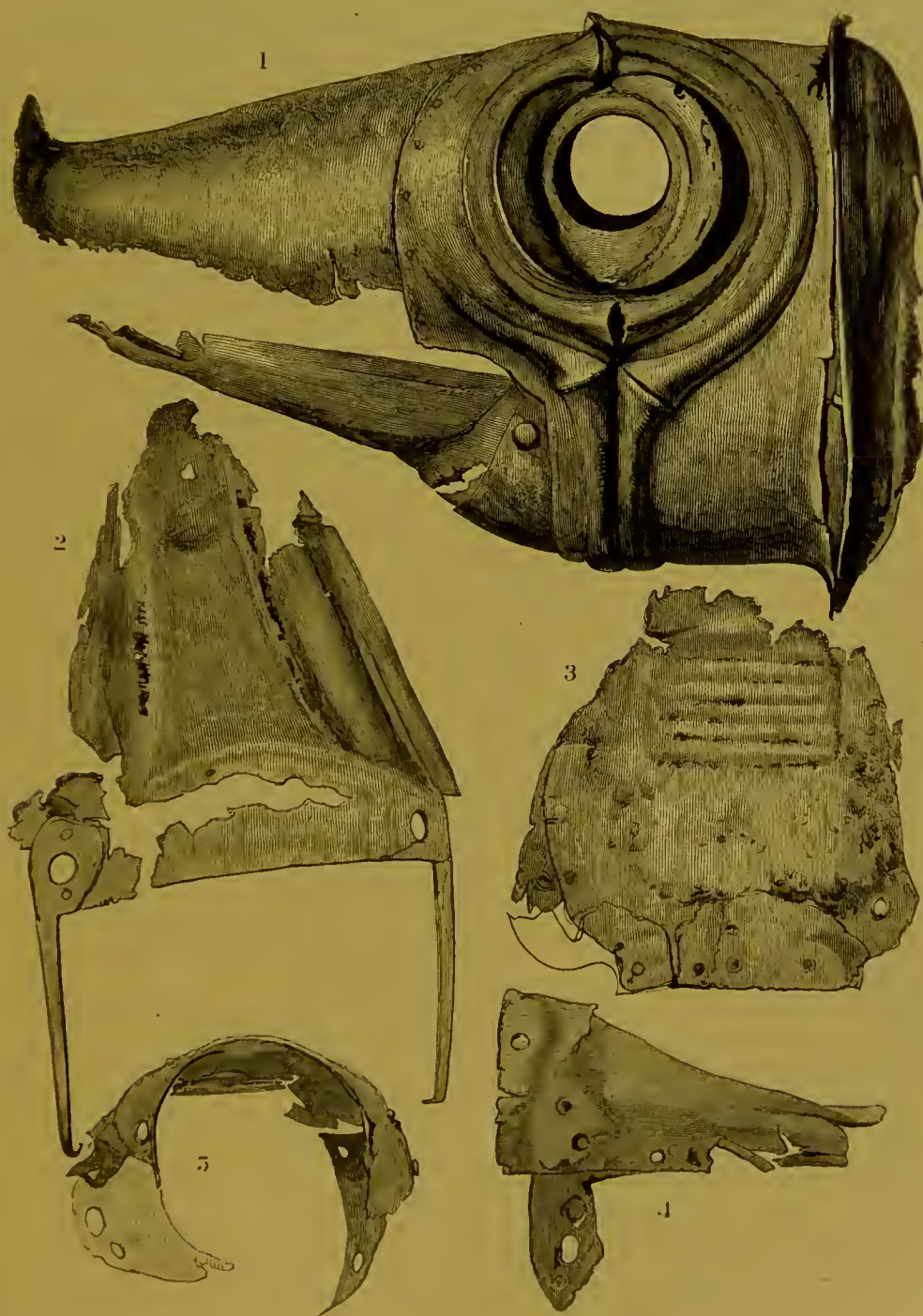




HORNS OF BRONZE FOUND AT TORRS, KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE.

1. Perfect Horn of Right Side of Bronze. 2. Front View of Ornamental Extremity of Right Horn. 3. Bronze Horn of Left Side.





SWINE'S HEAD OF BRONZE FOUND AT LEICHESTOWN, BANFFSHIRE

1. Bronze Swine's Head, with round disk now attached to its base (8½ inches in greatest length).
2. Lower Jaw, separate.
3. Bronze Plate, supposed to be Palate of the Swine's Head.
4. Lateral View of Bronze Plate, or palate.
5. Posterior View of the same plate.





- Fig. 3. Bronze horn of left side, showing the ornamental scrolls on its outer surface. Also the small separate plate of bronze at its base. This horn wants the ornamental tip.
- Fig. 4. Inside view of lower angle of left side of bronze, showing the concave side of the ornamental scroll-work, and also the two pins which project at each of its lower angles.

*Plate XLVI.*

- Fig. 1. Bronze "Swine's Head" found at Liechestown, Banffshire, with lower jaw in its place. The round disk found with the bronze is shown in profile, as it is now attached to the back part of the head. ( $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches in greatest length.)
- Fig. 2. Lower jaw, separated from the bronze head, and its outer surface displayed.
- Fig. 3. Bronze plate supposed to be the palate of the "Swine's Head," lower surface, next mouth.
- Fig. 4. Lateral view of bronze palate or plate.
- Fig. 5. Posterior view of bronze palate or plate, showing its contracted or rounded form at this extremity.



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